GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1636
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2001
FRENCH TIES
SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish better bilateral relations with France;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indo-France joint agreements have been concluded for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

a) & b) Bilateral relations between India and France are already intense and diversified. Several exchanges of high-level visits have taken place. Cooperation in strengthening economic and commercial relations and building closer defence ties is continuing. Some of the institutional mechanisms for moving these relations forward include the Indo-French Forum, the Indo-French Strategic Dialogue, Indo-French High Committee on Defence, Indo-French Joint Commission for Economic and Commercial Co-operation and the annual Foreign Secretary level consultations.

c) & d) India and France have adopted several initiatives to further strengthen bilateral relations including co-operation agreements in various sectors such as the Indo-French Cultural Exchange Programme agreement and the instruments of ratification of Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement.Other agreements signed between the two countries include agreements on mutual legal assistance in civil and criminal matters.